

## REMARKS

### Summary of the Office Action

Claims 13 and 14 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,791) in view of Katsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,692,133).

Claims 3-6 and 8-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito and Katsu et al., and further in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,074).

### Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claim 1 is amended to further define the invention by incorporating the features recited in claims 12 and 13, and claims 2-11, 14 and 15 are amended to be consistent with the changes made to independent claim 1. Furthermore, claims 12 and 13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14 and 15 are presently pending in this application for further consideration.

### All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,791) in view of Katsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,692,133). Claims 3-6 and 8-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito and Katsu et al., and further in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,074). To the extent that the rejections might be applied against the claims as newly-amended, they are respectfully traversed as being based on a reference or a combination of references that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in the claims.

Applicants cancel claims 12 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the objection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

On page 6 of the Action, the Office admits that claims 13 and 14 contain allowable subject matter and claims 13 and 14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants disagree with the assertions made by the Office, nevertheless, to facilitate an immediate allowance of the present application, Applicants amend claim 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter recited in claim 13 and features recited in claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly amended independent claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-11, 14 and 15 are allowable based on their dependency from the allowable independent claim 1, as well as individual features each dependent claim recite.

In light of arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request that the present application is placed for a condition for the immediate allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

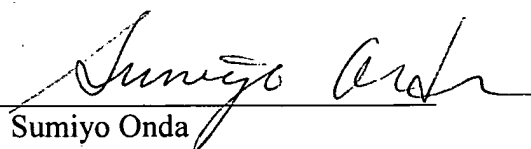
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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